

REMARKS

Claims 57-63, 65, 67, 68 and 71-72 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The rejection is submitted to be moot because the amended claims 57-59 recite 8 to 40 mils, same as previously presented.

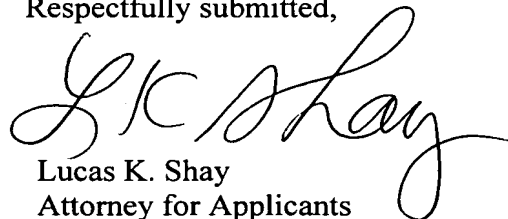
5 Claims 58, 60, 63, 65, 68, and 72 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The rejection becomes moot because amended claims 58, 60, and 62 57-59 recite 8 to 40 mils that further narrow the scope of claim 3.

10 Claims 66-68 and 71-72 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The rejection is submitted to be moot because the recitation of "or ionomer-polyamide blend" is deleted in the amended claims 66-68.

Claim 43 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The rejection is not moot as amended claim 43 no longer depends from claim 64.

15 Claims 1, 3, 6, 43, 54, 55, 57-63, 65-72, 83, and 84 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Smith. The rejection is submitted to be moot because the accompanying Rule 131 declaration demonstrates that co-inventor Lori J. Pike conceived and reduced to practice the ionomer/ionomer two-layer film structure before Smith's earliest December 15, 1998 filing date.

Respectfully submitted,

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